



Air Line Pilots Association



Allied Pilots Association



Airline Pilots Security Alliance



Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations



Southwest Airlines Pilots' Association

Doclet H7CIV1
11229

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April 3, 2002

The Honorable George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

FAA-01-11229-1581

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
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Dear Mr. President:

As representatives of the largest airline pilot organizations in this country, we would like your assistance in the immediate development and implementation of a program to defend the American traveling public with voluntarily armed pilots.

Public opinion polls and those within our own pilot groups indicate overwhelming support for arming flight deck crewmembers with lethal weapons. Nothing short of lethal force can stop lethal intent to hijack and destroy our aircraft and murder all on board. Yet the volunteer pilot arming provisions of the Aviation and Transportation Security Act of 2001 that you signed into law on November 19, 2001, are being ignored.

To remedy this situation, we ask for your assistance in implementing a flight deck protection program that has the following characteristics:

- All volunteer pilots must be carefully screened, successfully trained and subsequently designated by a federal law enforcement agency such as the FBI or TSA.
- Pilots so selected, screened and trained should be deputized or have the same indemnification and protections afforded other law enforcement officers in the employ of the U.S. government.
- Pilots must be certificated in weapons handling, use of lethal force, carriage policy and procedure, rules of engagement in all environments, recurrent training, tort law, and other subjects deemed necessary by the governing authority.
- Choice of weapons and ammunition will be mandated by the responsible federal agency.
- Certified pilots will draw their weapons only for use in direct defense of the flight deck in accordance with program "use of force" rules.

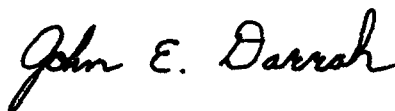
If the unthinkable happens again, there must be a means provided for our flight crews to defeat any hijacker who breaches the flight deck with a weapon and attempts to destroy the aircraft. Otherwise, a U.S. fighter may be ordered to shoot down a commercial airliner full of innocent passengers. America's pilots must have lethal weapons as a last line of defense against well-coordinated, highly trained teams of terrorists.

Each of our pilot groups has independently assessed and recommended the best way to implement a plan to arm our flight crews. Each has drawn similar conclusions closely paralleling a proposed training program developed by the FBI at the request of the Department of Justice. We have forwarded our specific recommendations through the comment process requested by the Federal Aviation Administration, and stand ready to immediately assist your administration in the establishment of such a program.

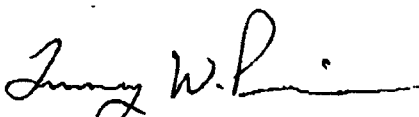
Sincerely,



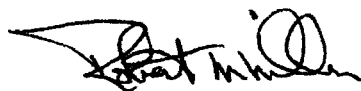
Captain Duane Woerth
President
Air Line Pilots Association



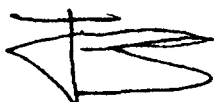
Captain John E. Darrah
President
Allied Pilots Association



Captain Tracy Price
President
Airline Pilot Security Alliance



Captain Bob Miller
President
Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations



Captain Jon Weeks
President
Southwest Airlines Pilots' Association

cc: Norman Mineta, Secretary of the U.S. DOT
Tom Ridge, Director, Office of Homeland Security
John W. Magaw, Under Secretary of Transportation for Security, U.S. DOT
Robert S. Mueller, Director, FBI
Nicholas Sabatini, Associate Administrator for Regulation & Certification, FAA
Carol Hallett, President & CEO, Air Transport Association of America